ALBERTA'S ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Coordinated by Economic Development and Trade

In Collaboration With:

Advanced Education
Agriculture
Career Development and Employment
Community and Occupational Health
Culture
Energy
Education
Environment
Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs
Forestry, Lands and Wildlife
Municipal Affairs
Public Works, Supply and Services
Recreation and Parks
Technology, Research and Telecommunications
Tourism
Transportation and Utilities
Treasury

May 20, 1987

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ALBERTA'S ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

1.0 ELEMENTS OF ALBERTA'S DIVERSIFICATION STRATEGY

Diversification of Alberta's economic base has been, and remains, a major objective of the Government of Alberta. Diversification is viewed as a means for building additional stability into the province's economy, while at the same time contributing to growth in employment. The aim of Alberta's diversification efforts is to encourage and strengthen activities that result in upgrading or further processing of the province's resources.

Over the years, the Alberta Government has encouraged diversification by pursuing policies that build on our strengths, that remove impediments and overcome constraints, and that sustain a stable investment climate and recognize the vital role of the private sector. Several of the more important elements of the Alberta Government's approach to diversification can be briefly stated as follows:

- Establishing the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund which has provided the financial means to undertake initiatives that further enhance Alberta's attractiveness as a place to invest.

- Maintaining a competitive tax regime for the province's business community, with current tax rates on small business and manufacturing and processing income being among the lowest in Canada.

- Establishing an extensive infrastructure in transportation, communications, education, and health care - all of which are essential to economic growth and diversification.

- Developing world class facilities in science and technology such as the Electronics Test Centre; the Alberta Microelectronic Centre; the Alberta Research Council; and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research.

- Developing world class facilities for tourism including heritage attractions such as the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology and the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump World Heritage Site, and recreational features such as Kananaskis and the Winter Olympics sites.

- Providing financial assistance to small businesses where the marketplace has not responded to their needs. Examples include the Small Business Term Assistance Plan; the Alberta Farm Credit Stability Program; the Alberta Opportunity Company and the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation.

- Encouraging the formation of venture capital pools as sources of equity capital and liquidity for Alberta businesses. Several examples are the Small Business Equity Corporations Program, Vencap Equities Ltd., and the Alberta Stock Savings Plan.

- o Promoting the development of export markets for Alberta goods and services through programs such as the Market Development Assistance Program; the Loan Guarantee Program for Alberta Exporters; and the Export Services Support Program.

In addition to the province's own initiatives, the Alberta Government has pursued a number of joint planning and coordination agreements with the Federal Government. The Canada/Alberta Economic and Regional Development Agreement (ERDA) signed in June, 1984 has established a framework for increasing federal/provincial cooperation in realizing the economic and regional development potential of the Province of Alberta. A number of specific initiatives have been undertaken under the ERDA umbrella in the areas of forestry, agricultural processing, northern development, tourism, science and technology, and transportation.

Alberta has made excellent progress in diversifying the provincial economy over the last decade. The programs of assistance identified in this document underlie the Government of Alberta's approach to, and the emphasis it places on, ensuring that the private sector continues to be able to take advantage of development opportunities as they arise.

2.0 AGRICULTURE

2.1 The Alberta Agriculture Development Corporation (AADC) is a Crown Corporation that is involved in both direct lending programs and loan guarantee programs to Alberta farmers and agri-businesses. The Corporation acts as a primary lender to beginning farmers, providing loans at interest rates below market value. AADC only lends money when conventional financing is not readily available. In 1986/87, $114.2 million was budgeted for AADC. **Alberta Agriculture Development Corporation**

2.2 The Canada/Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Agricultural Processing and Marketing is a five year initiative which provides developmental assistance to the agricultural processing industry in Alberta. The Governments of Canada and Alberta have agreed to provide $50 million to this initiative which extends to September 30, 1990. This agreement offers assistance to the private sector under two programs: Capital Assistance, which encourages investment in the establishment, expansion and modernization of processing operations, and testing and research facilities; and Non-Capital Assistance, which is available to help processors undertake feasibility studies or research and development projects that are eligible under Capital Assistance. **Alberta Agriculture**

2.3 The Agriculture Market Development Assistance Program is aimed at enhancing the export potential of Alberta companies involved in agricultural production, processing, marketing or consulting. Eligible companies can receive financial assistance to cover a portion of the costs incurred for market identification trips, out of province trade fairs and exhibitions, incoming buyer visits, outgoing sales

trips, and market feasibility studies. The program has been established by Alberta Agriculture to supplement the Federal Program for Export Market Development (PEMD). The program received an allocation of $1,241,600 in 1986/87. **Alberta Agriculture**

2.4 Farming for the Future is an agricultural program supported by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund and administered by the Agricultural Research Council of Alberta, funds a wide range of research and demonstration activities that may relate to any aspect of agricultural production. The program provides financial assistance under two elements: the Research program supports basic and applied agricultural experimentation and the On-farm Demonstration program which expedites the transfer of research findings from the laboratory to the farming community. The Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund invested $5 million in the program in 1986/87. **Alberta Agriculture**

2.5 The Food Laboratory ensures the quality, safety, and nutritional values of Alberta's food and agricultural production at the producer, processor, exporter and consumer levels. Food laboratories in Edmonton and Airdrie, provide microbiological, chemical organoleptical and consulting services to all sectors of the Alberta food industry, hospitals and various government agencies concerned with food production, processing, quality, inspection, transportation, export and retail trade. Food laboratories received a budget allocation of $1.8 million in 1986/87. **Alberta Agriculture**

2.6 The Food Processing Development Centre located at Leduc was established in 1984 to help Alberta food processors apply new technology in the development and packaging of new products and the application of new processes. The Centre provides an information service that assists in the acquisition, interpretation and adaptation of scientific or technical literature to resolve specific technical problems. Product development laboratories at the Centre contain equipment and facilities for product formulation, ingredient assessment and microbiological analysis. Pilot plant equipment can provide simulation of industrial production to assess and evaluate product or process performance. The Centre received an allocation of approximately $685,000 in 1986/87. **Alberta Agriculture**

2.7 The Irrigation Rehabilitation and Expansion Program and the Irrigation Systems Improvement Program were established in 1976 with funding from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. The objective of both programs is to increase Alberta's irrigable acreage to 1.5 million acres by 1995. Current irrigable acreage is 1.1 million acres, an increase of 20 percent since the inception of both programs.

The Irrigation Rehabilitation and Expansion Program provides financial assistance to participating irrigation districts, to cover the costs of planning, rehabilitating and expanding their irrigation distribution systems. The Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund has invested a total $182 million in this program as of March 31, 1986. **Alberta Agriculture**

The Irrigation Headworks Program provides support for the rehabilitation, upgrading, or replacement of existing irrigation headworks and delivery systems, and the development of new water storage and delivery systems. The Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund has invested a total of $255 million in this program as of March 31, 1986. **Alberta Environment**

2.8 The Alberta Special Crop and Horticultural Research Center, located at Brooks, was established in 1935 as a Provincial Horticultural Research Center Station and on April 1, 1987 was renamed the Alberta Special Crop and Horticultural Research Center with a mandate to extend activities and programs into the development of special crops to increase crop production options in Alberta.

The facilities are devoted to problem solving and to production oriented research with respect to special crops and the greenhouse and field production or vegetables and ornamentals. The center provides information services on production practices, variety recommendations, marketing, processing, storage and handling. Pest and disease control program services are also provided. The center received an allocation of $3 million in 1986/87. **Alberta Agriculture**

2.9 The Grain Breeding program at Lacombe was initiated in 1978 to develop feed grain varieties suitable for Alberta. Trials are being conducted on barley, triticale and winter wheat. As a result of the work undertaken to date, five new varieties have been registered; Empress #1 - 6 row feed; Abee - 2 row feed barley; Samson - a semi-dwarf 6 row feed barley; Noble - a 6 row feed barley and Wapiti - a spring triticale. The work is conducted on 350 acres at Lacombe, 30 off station sites and in winter nurseries in Oregon and California. The program has an annual budget of approximately $750,000. **Alberta Agriculture**

3.0 EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

3.1 The objective of the Alberta Training Program is to provide training, re-training and upgrading of new and existing employees, to raise the productivity of the work force, and to provide for adjustments due to technological change. Wage subsidies are available to private sector employers who offer job training and skill development to their employees. The Alberta Government reimburses the employer for fifty percent of wages up to a maximum of $7.50 per hour or $300 per week for programs of no less than one week for on-the-job training and of no less than three days for classroom based training. In 1986/87, $11.5 million was budgeted for this program. **Alberta Career Development and Employment**

3.2 The objective of the Alberta Vocational Training - Skill Enhancement Program is to provide additional training or re-training for unemployed Albertans who may already possess skills but may need skill updating and/or additional training to obtain employment. The program provides unemployed Albertans who are skilled in low demand

occupations an opportunity to undertake academic upgrading, skill upgrading or training in designated occupations identified as being in demand either now or in the near future. This program is part of the Alberta Vocational Training Program which was budgeted $28.7 million for 1986/87. **Alberta Career Development and Employment**

3.3 The Alberta Youth Employment & Training Program provides Alberta's youth with work experience and job-related training. The program has two elements. The Post-Secondary Internship & Training element aims to provide post-secondary graduates with jobs and training related to their education. The second element - Youth Work Experience and Training - is geared to providing work experience and training to 18 - 24 year old Albertans. In 1986/87, $46 million was budgeted for this program. **Alberta Career Development and Employment**

3.4 The purpose of the Private Vocational Schools Program is to provide vocational training for unemployed Albertans in identified skill shortage areas through licensed Private Vocational Schools, thus enhancing their opportunities for entering the workforce. This program provides financial support to individuals who require training offered by private vocational schools in fields identified as having critical skill shortages. In 1986/87, $3.8 million was allocated to this program. **Alberta Career Development and Employment**

3.5 The purpose of the Wage Subsidy Program is to provide businesses and farms with a wage subsidy for employing new workers and for re-training workers who otherwise might be laid off. A subsidy of fifty percent of the wages of an employee, up to a maximum of $2.50 per hour, is provided to approved employers who provide work experience and career development opportunities for unemployed Albertans. In 1986/87, $28.7 million was budgeted for this program. **Alberta Career Development and Employment**

4.0 ENERGY

4.1 The Alberta Oilsands Technology and Research Authority (AOSTRA) is a provincial crown corporation that was established in 1974. AOSTRA's mandate is to promote research and development of technology that would lead to the efficient and economic recovery and processing of crude bitumen and other oilsands products from the oilsands deposits. AOSTRA's involvement in technological development ranges from academic and institutional research to the support of large scale field pilots and demonstration units in cooperation with industry. AOSTRA is supported by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund which has invested a total of $351 million in the crown corporation as of March 31, 1986. **Alberta Oilsands Technology and Research Authority**

4.2 The Coal Research Centre is a $22 million facility that was established in Devon in 1984 by the Alberta/Canada Energy Resources Research Fund, a joint federal/provincial program administered by Alberta Energy. The Centre conducts studies ranging from improving conventional coal cleaning methods to frontier research on converting

coal to synthetic fuels such as oil and gas. The coal research programs of the Alberta Research Council, the Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology (Canmet), and the Coal Mining Research Company are conducted at this facility. **Alberta Energy**

4.3 Deregulation of Crude Oil - Crude oil markets were deregulated in Canada effective June 1, 1985 with the signing of the Western Accord between the producing provinces and the Federal Government. Domestic crude oil prices are now responsive to changes in international market conditions. The Accord also removed export licensing restrictions on exports to the U.S. Since deregulation there has been a significant shift in the distribution pattern of crude oil. Eastern Canadian refineries are taking increasing volumes of offshore oil while Alberta producers are shipping increasing volumes of crude oil to the U.S. **Alberta Energy**

4.4 Deregulation of Natural Gas Industry - As set out in the November 1985 Agreement on Natural Gas Markets and Prices, deregulation of all natural gas sold outside Alberta proceeded as scheduled on November 1, 1986. The price of natural gas is now determined by market forces rather than by regulation. The effect of the agreement has been to provide more open access for Alberta natural gas to all markets, including the United States market. Alberta producers can now compete in these markets at competitive prices with other forms of energy. **Alberta Energy**

5.0 FILM, VIDEO AND OTHER CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

5.1 The Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation (AMPDC) was established by the Alberta Government in 1981 to stimulate the growth of the Film and Video Production Industry in Alberta by making loans or guaranteeing loans to qualified producers. The AMPDC is authorized to make loans or loan guarantees of up to 60 percent of the total funds required for the pre-production stage of a motion picture. The AMPDC has its offices in Canmore and is funded by a $3 million endowment grant. **Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

5.2 Practical Aid Programs for other fledgling cultural industries such as publishing, sound recording and crafts are also provided, through both direct Alberta Culture technical and financial assistance, and associated lotteries-funded cultural foundations. **Alberta Culture**

6.0 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

6.1 Alberta Opportunity Company (AOC) is a Crown Corporation intended to stimulate the establishment of new businesses and to assist in the expansion of existing enterprises. The Company may make loans, or guarantee loans of other lenders, and provide management counselling or other specialized services. AOC only lends money when conventional financing is not readily available. AOC is now also able to make investments on an equity basis in certain areas (ie. manufacturing, tourism and some advanced technology companies). Emphasis is placed

on Albertan-owned enterprises, on small businesses, on job-creating projects, and on businesses in smaller population centres. In 1986/87, AOC is expected to approve approximately 370 loans for a value of $34 million. **Alberta Opportunity Company**

6.2 The Alberta Small Business Term Assistance Plan is intended to provide fixed term, fixed rate financing to small businesses having majority ownership by Alberta residents. This $1.1 billion program is administered through participating financial institutions and offers a fixed interest rate of 9 percent to purchase capital assets and/or refinance existing term debt. As a result of the success of the program and the high take-up rate, the financial institutions have not accepted any new applications under the program since September 25, 1986. **Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

6.3 The Alberta Stock Savings Plan (ASSP) is intended to stimulate the provision of equity capital for new and growing Alberta companies through attracting new investors to the equity market. The ASSP is an investment vehicle that benefits investors by entitling them to a credit against Alberta tax payable, based on the purchase of eligible shares listed on the Alberta Stock Exchange. **Alberta Treasury**

6.4 The Guarantee Program to Assist Alberta Farm Implement Dealers is intended to support farm implement dealers in obtaining working capital loans to sustain operations until conditions in the industry improve. The Alberta Government will guarantee loans made by eligible financial institutions after the lenders undertake a normal credit assessment. The loans are subject to a maximum of $250,000 to any one dealership with the Alberta Government's liability being a maximum of $125,000 or 50 percent of the loan amount. The guarantee would be in force for the term of the loan, but not after December 31, 1987. **Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

6.5 The Small Business Equity Corporations Program (SBEC) is designed to stimulate the formation of privately organized and managed pools of equity capital to invest in eligible small businesses throughout the province. SBEC's offer attractive incentives to investors in the form of grants for individuals and refundable tax credits for corporations. Presently, the Alberta Government is assessing the benefits of the SBEC program. Applications will not be considered after September 2, 1986 until further notice is given. **Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

6.6 Vencap Equities Alberta Ltd. (VENCAP) is a $244 million venture capital fund, established with a loan from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund and public sale of shares, which invests in Alberta corporations with substantial growth prospects and the potential to further diversify the Alberta economy. Vencap will consider investments of any size but is particularly attracted to opportunities involving sums of equity capital in a range of $1 million to $10 million. Vencap is publicly owned and has as its primary aim to operate profitability in the best interests of all shareholders. **Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

6.7 Corporate Tax Rates - Alberta's corporate tax rates are among the lowest in Canada. No taxes are levied on small business manufacturing and processing income earned in Alberta. The general tax rate for manufacturing and processing income earned in Alberta is 9 percent. For businesses that are not manufacturers or processors, the small business rate is 5 percent, the general rate is 15 percent. There is no payroll tax in Alberta. **Alberta Treasury**

7.0 FORESTRY

7.1 The Canada/Alberta Forest Resource Development Agreement provides assistance through contractual arrangements to eligible companies to undertake programs that are designed to increase forest productivity in Alberta, to promote efficient utilization of forest resources or to increase economic diversity and employment opportunities in forestry.

Under the terms of the Agreement $23 million has been committed between June 1984 and March 1990. The Agreement seeks to encourage industry to further improve forest management practices, to develop cost competitive methods and products for the utilization of hardwoods and to raise public awareness of forestry issues. These activities will include a strong emphasis on applied research and development and related technology transfer. The agreement is jointly administered by the Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife and the Canadian Forestry Service. **Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife**

7.2 The Forestry Industry Development Program is a recently created initiative of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife to assist new and existing forest companies and private investors to upgrade and utilize Alberta's vast uncommitted forest resources for a variety of forest products; and to attract investment and private sector involvement in upgrading and developing our renewable resources other than the forest industry. **Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife**

8.0 MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

8.1 The Alberta International Marketing Employment Program was designed first, to provide Alberta businesses with an opportunity to hire post-secondary graduates who will work on a specific international marketing project, and second, to promote the development of export market opportunities for Alberta. The Alberta Government provides funding support on a cost-shared basis for wage and travel expenses of employees of employers who have demonstrated an international marketing capability for their products or services. In 1986/87, $625,000 was allocated to this program. **Alberta Career Development and Employment**

8.2 The objective of the Business Immigration Program is to attract and facilitate the admission of business immigrants who will establish or make a significant investment in job creating business ventures which offer significant economic benefits to Alberta. This program is one

of the programs administered by the Immigration Services section of Alberta Career Development and Employment. In 1986/87, the budget for Immigration Services was allocated $400,000. **Alberta Career Development and Employment**

8.3 The Export Services Support Program is intended to encourage Alberta businesses to more aggressively pursue specific projects outside of Alberta by financially assisting feasibility and other relevant studies that could eventually lead to contracts for Alberta goods and services. This $7 million program assists Alberta-based firms to participate in areas of design, engineering, construction and manufacturing that could not otherwise be undertaken. Assistance is provided by funding 50 percent of approved bid preparation expenses and/or feasibility studies to a maximum of $350,000 for each project, with a $600,000 ceiling for any one applicant. **Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

8.4 The Loan Guarantee Program for Alberta Exporters is intended to provide support to Alberta based businesses that are involved or intend to be involved in the export of their manufactured products outside of Alberta. The objective is to increase the financing available to Alberta based manufacturers, by guaranteeing loans made by chartered banks and Treasury Branches to a maximum of $5 million, providing such loans relate to specific export contracts or orders. The Program addresses the problems relating to working capital shortages to ensure that if an export sale is acquired, it can be financed through to completion. **Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

8.5 The Management Assistance Program (MAP) provides business counselling to groups of small businesses that want to improve their management performance. The program retains private management consultants to work with each individual owner/manager. Over a period of five months the consultant provides advice on topics such as finance, accounting, and marketing. This counselling assistance enables small business to develop appropriate business plans that can fully take advantage of local opportunities. The consultants' fees are paid for by the Small Business Division of Alberta Economic Development and Trade. In 1986/87, $538,000 was allocated to this program. **Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

8.6 The Market Development Assistance Program (MDAP) can provide assistance to Alberta businesses that are interested in enhancing their export potential. Eligible companies can receive financial assistance to cover a portion of the costs incurred for market identification trips, out of province trade fairs and exhibitions, incoming buyer visits, and outgoing sales trips. The total value of grants allowed per applicant company within any fiscal year is $7500 maximum. The program has been established by Alberta Economic Development & Trade to supplement the Federal Program for Export Market Development (PEMD). Applicants are asked to apply under PEMD before considering application to MDAP. This program was allocated $750,000 in 1986/87. **Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

8.7 The University of Alberta New Ventures Development Program brings entrepreneurs together with MBA students and students from other faculties to jointly develop business plans and seek financing for new projects. This program provides students with first hand business experience and the entrepreneur with a well developed business plan designed to secure the necessary funding to proceed with the project. This program was begun in 1984 with pilot project funding provided in its initial years by Alberta Economic Development & Trade. The program is now being supported by the private sector. **University of Alberta; Alberta Technology, Research and Telecommunications**

8.8 The University of Calgary New Ventures Development Program assists entrepreneurs in business plan development, provides access to University faculty and students to assist the entrepreneur in such areas as marketing, engineering and product development, and it provides courses in entrepreneurial development. The program also funds a series of "New Venture Development Forums" designed to enable entrepreneurs to present their ideas to an audience of their peers, venture capitalists, and other potential financiers. It serves as a focus for entrepreneurial activity in Calgary. **University of Calgary; Alberta Technology, Research and Telecommunications**

8.9 Business Incubator Development - The Alberta Government provides financial assistance for the establishment of small business incubators in communities throughout Alberta. Business incubators are intended to nurture new small businesses in their formative years by providing services such as shared administrative support, business counselling assistance, management training and access to seed capital. The level of assistance available for incubator development will include funds for feasibility assessment and business plan preparation up to $25,000 or 50 percent of the eligible costs. The second element provides funds over three years to offset part of the operating deficit with the level of assistance determined by the size of the community to a maximum of $300,000. **Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

9.0 MEDICAL RESEARCH

9.1 The Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research was established in 1979 by the Alberta Government to build a balanced program of medical research by supporting basic and clinical scientists in Alberta hospitals and universities. The Foundation activities are directed towards the discovery of new knowledge and the application of that knowledge to improve health care. Support is provided over a broad spectrum of disciplines including: biochemistry, microbiology, pediatrics, immunology, neurology and others. The Foundation is supported by a $300 million endowment from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. **Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research**

10.0 NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

10.1 Canada/Alberta Northern Development Agreement is a $40 million cost-shared agreement between Alberta and the Federal Government that is intended to encourage greater economic development in Northern Alberta. The agreement has three major program elements that provides assistance to businesses and community organizations for the following: industrial and business development; human resource development; and community and regional infrastructure development. This is a five year agreement that expires March 31, 1991. This Agreement is administered by the Northern Development Branch of the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC). **Northern Alberta Development Council**

11.0 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

11.1 The Alberta Laser Institute at the University of Alberta is intended to encourage and assist Alberta industry with the development and implementation of laser systems that will provide more cost effective production technology. The Institute is conducting research for industry involving the cutting and surface treatment of materials. It is the first centre of its kind in Canada that is oriented towards the industrial application of laser technology. The Alberta Government is providing $5 million in funding assistance over five years commencing in 1985. **University of Alberta; Alberta Technology, Research and Telecommunications**

11.2 The Alberta Microelectronic Centre is a non-profit organization that acts as a focal point for new microelectronic technology, offering a variety of education, training, consulting, and research services to Alberta business and industry. This initially federally funded and provincially supported Centre is located at the University of Alberta with additional research facilities at the University of Calgary. Research activities include integrated circuit design, CAD software development, device physics, integrated sensor research, and integrated circuit prototyping. **University of Alberta; University of Calgary; Alberta Technology, Research and Telecommunications**

11.3 Alberta Microelectronic Centre/Microchip Design and Fabrication Facilities - In 1985, the Alberta Government committed $13.9 million to the Centre over a three year period to assist in its expansion which involved the establishment of microchip design and fabrication facilities. The Alberta Microelectronic Centre's Calgary Design and Engineering Application Facility was officially opened on September 19, 1986. The Calgary design facility was established to design and prototype custom microchips for industry and research projects significant to the electronics industry. **University of Calgary; Alberta Technology, Research and Telecommunications**

The Alberta Microelectronic Centre's Edmonton Fabrication Facility was officially opened on December 15, 1986. The fabrication facility, located in the Newton Research Building on the University of Alberta

campus, will manufacture custom-designed silicon chips and will complement the work of the Calgary Design and Engineering Application Facility. The two facilities are designed to provide assistance to companies involved in microelectronics and contribute to the growth of the electronics industry in Alberta. **University of Alberta; Alberta Technology, Research and Telecommunications**

11.4 Alta-Can Telecom Inc., was established in 1982 as a venture capital subsidiary of Alberta Government Telephones with an initial capitalization of $10 million. The company invests in private sector ventures in the fields of microelectronics and telecommunications. **Alberta Government Telephones**

11.5 The Alberta Research Council (ARC) is a Crown Corporation dedicated to promoting economic development in Alberta through science and technology. ARC provides a full range of services: pure and applied research; analytical laboratories; and industrial engineering problem-solving. ARC has identified six major areas of activity including Industrial and Engineering Research, Advanced Technologies, Applied Sciences, Oil Sands, Coal and Natural Resources. One of the Council's highest priorities is to work closely with industry to provide businesses with the research capability required but not available in the private sector.

The Joint Research Venture Program is an initiative which was established in 1983, whereby companies and the Council jointly share in the costs of research programs proposed by the companies and where the work is performed on Council premises. The Advanced Technologies Program is another initiative that was established in 1984 to assist companies to become more competitive by providing them with research and development assistance in information and automation technologies. The Alberta Research Council also promotes and administers the National Research Council's Industrial Research and Assistance Program (IRAP) in the province. The ARC was allocated $23 million in 1986/87. **Alberta Research Council**

11.6 The Alberta Telecommunications Research Centre (ATRC) focuses on research in optical communications with emphasis on fibre optics and computer-aided design of microelectronic products and services. Over a five year period beginning in 1986, the Government of Alberta has committed $3.56 million to funding the Centre's operations; the University of Alberta will contribute about $1 million; and Bell Northern Research Ltd. will provide $3.5 million. The ATRC encourages the participation of industry to share in the benefits of pooled research and development relating to the telecommunications field. ATRC research facilities are located in the Edmonton Research and Development Park. **Alberta Telecommunications Research Centre**

11.7 The Centre for Frontier Engineering Research (CFER) at the University of Alberta is an incorporated, non-profit organization focusing on research related to materials, design and construction for Arctic and offshore resource development. In addition to its own on-going research program, CFER enhances the research efforts of industry in

looking for ways to increase productivity in frontier development. CFER is also available for carrying out appropriate contract research. CFER's membership includes consulting companies, energy companies, petroleum service companies, steel producers and fabricators, universities and government and currently stands at about 30. Initial funding for CFER is provided by the Devonian Group at Charitable Foundations, the private sector, the University of Alberta and the Governments of Canada and Alberta. Beginning in November 1983, the Alberta Government committed $376,000 per year for five years to support CFER. **Centre for Frontier Engineering Research**

11.8 The Electronics Industry Information Centre (EIIC) was established by the Alberta Government in April 1985. The development of electronics products is directly linked to the availability of technical information. As not all companies have the necessary means to access that information, development of new products and new ideas is sometimes delayed or impeded. The EIIC creates a computerized network linked to an information bank, from which Alberta manufacturers can access the most up-to-date technical and design information available. The Government of Alberta is contributing approximately $1.6 million to the Centre which will be based out of the Alberta Research Council offices in Calgary. **Alberta Research Council**

11.9 The Electronics Test Centre (ETC) is a facility that provides evaluation and research support to the electronics industry. The Centre provides rigorous product tests and evaluations in the area of telecommunications, medical electronics, data processing, office automation, and process instrumentation. ETC can verify product and design conformance with regard to product safety including comprehensive certification testing to CSA, UL and other safety standards. ETC can also act as agent on behalf of a manufacturer to obtain product approvals. The Test Centre is sponsored by the Alberta Research Council (ARC) and is located at ARC facilities in Edmonton. It is funded in part by a $6.2 million capital grant from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. **Alberta Research Council**

11.10 The Product Development Program is intended to assist Alberta manufacturers who want to improve the design and quality of their existing products or develop new and innovative products. This program can enable proposals to recover as much as 75 percent of the eligible costs of product development to a maximum of $30,000 per project. **Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

11.11 The Supercomputer Project located at the University of Calgary, is a joint venture involving Alberta Technology, Research and Telecommunications, the University of Calgary and industry. The objective of the project is to encourage research and training in vector computing technology; to develop state-of-the-art supercomputer application software; to provide a research facility for Canadian universities; and to attract world class academic and industrial research to Alberta. The Alberta Government has prepaid $10 million of computer time to be allocated to industry and the universities for R & D projects over a five year period that began in 1985. **University of Calgary; Alberta Technology, Research and Telecommunications**

11.12 The Alberta Research Council Biotechnology Pilot Plant was established in 1985 to carry out biotechnology research and to assist industrial clients in the commercialization of their biotechnology processes through the scale-up of laboratory research production. The services which this plant can offer to industry will be greatly expanded with the completion of a 15,000 litre toll fermentation facility that is currently under construction at an estimated cost of $2.6 million. This 15,000 litre fermentor will be the only facility of its kind in Canada and the third in North America. It will give Alberta's biotechnology companies a competitive advantage in the production and entry of new products into world markets and will attract international business to the province. The biotechnology pilot plant and the new toll facility which are located at the Alberta Research Council's headquarters in Edmonton will enable the Council to provide a complete range of service to clients from the discovery of new products to large scale production. **Alberta Research Council**

11.13 The Edmonton Research and Development Park was opened in 1980 to provide specialized industrial site facilities for companies involved in research and development activities and in the manufacture of high technology products. The Park which is operated by the Edmonton Research and Development Park Authority consists of a 160 acre site which is available for sale or lease to companies to build their own facilities. In addition, the Park has a Multi-tenant research facility, Research Centre 1, which is now fully occupied; however, construction on a second Multi-tenant facility will begin in 1987. The Government of Alberta contributed financially to the Edmonton Research and Development Park Authority directly through an Alberta Housing Corporation loan to a maximum of $5 million for local improvement in the Park. In addition, there has been indirect financing through an $11.5 million debenture borrowing by the City from the Alberta Municipal Finance Corporation which has been used to purchase land, cover interest payments and construct buildings related to the Park. **City of Edmonton; Alberta Municipal Affairs**

11.14 The Multi-Tenant Advanced Technology Facility in the Edmonton Research and Development Park is a joint $5 million initiative of the City of Edmonton and the Alberta Government designed to increase the growth and success rate of small and newly formed high technology firms. Multi-tenant facilities which prove a concentration of resources such as shared office services and access to experienced business and technical experts have been demonstrated to significantly improve the success rate of newly established small businesses. Construction on this proposed 43,000 square foot facility is scheduled to start in March 1987 and to be completed in the spring of 1988. The Alberta Government has committed $2 million in financing towards the construction of this facility with the balance of $3 million being borne by the City of Edmonton. **City of Edmonton; Alberta Technology, Research and Telecommunications**

11.15 The Calgary Research and Development Parks provide specialized industrial site facilities for companies involved in research and development activities and in the manufacture of high technology

products. The Parks which are operated by the Calgary Research and Development Authority consist of two sites totalling some 1,171 acres. There is the University Research Park which was established in 1969 with about 105 acres of which some 30 acres of fully serviced land is still available. The Spy Hill Research Park is the second site which consists of some 1,066 acres of currently undeveloped land. This site has been annexed to the City of Calgary, the area structure plan formulated and approved, and preliminary engineering completed. The land of both sites is owned and administered by the Government of Alberta. The Calgary Research and Development Authority negotiates leases with potential tenants for either site and then leases the required land from the Province. **Calgary Research and Development Authority; Public Works, Supply and Services**

11.16 Spurt Investment Fund 1 which was established in October 1985 with an initial capitalization of $3 million is the first venture capital fund in Canada designed solely to make equity investments in seed and early-stage technology enterprises. Spurt 1 investments are made only in Alberta high technology firms with the typical equity capital being in the range of $75,000 to $250,000.

In addition to seed capital, Spurt 1 also provides financial, management, engineering and marketing resources. Spurt Investment Fund 1 is a limited partnership of ten organizations representing both the private and public sectors with Alta-Can Telecom Inc. being the managing and General Partner of the Fund. In January of 1987, the Alberta Government announced its direct participation in the Fund with an investment of $500,000 during the 1986/87 fiscal year with the provision for additional funding of $500,000 for three successive years. **Alta-Can Telecom Inc.**

11.17 Financing of High Technology Firms in the form of loans, loan guarantees, grants, equity investments and preferred shares are provided by the Alberta Government through the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund and the General Revenue Fund. This financial assistance is designed to assist companies that are involved in the commercialization of leading edge technologies and where financing is not available from other sources. **Alberta Technology, Research and Telecommunications**

12.0 TOURISM AND LEISURE SERVICES

12.1 Business Counselling - Alberta Tourism provides development counselling to new & prospective tourism operators in areas such as location, market analysis, economic feasibility, development permit regulations, and other physical plan development requirements. **Alberta Tourism**

12.2 Canada/Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Tourism Development (CATA) - is a five year cost-shared $56.3 million agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta. Taking effect on November 13, 1985, the tourism Sub-Agreement recognized the economic importance of Alberta's tourism industry by providing financial assistance to the

private sector and tourism-oriented organizations for new initiatives in the areas of development, marketing, training and research. The end result of this assistance will be the undertaking of a variety of development projects and initiatives that will enhance or contribute to Alberta's positioning as a national and international tourism destination. **Alberta Tourism**

12.3 Management Training for Tourism Operators - Alberta Tourism offers a seminar in Customer Relations for Supervisors and Managers in the tourist industry to assist them in staff training and reinforcing the use of customer relations skill by their staff. Alberta Tourism also provides several seminars specifically for the hospitality industry including job entry seminars, customer relations, suggestive selling and Zone Travel Counsellor training. Seminars are offered province-wide, free of charge to the entire range of participants in the hospitality industry. These seminars utilize the training packages and films available from the Hospitality Resource Centre administered by Alberta Tourism. **Alberta Tourism**

12.4 Travel Alberta Zone Assistance Program (TAZAP) - This is a $600,000 annual grant program designed to assist the 14 zones of the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta in their regional "in-Alberta" marketing, promotional and development objectives. TAZAP encourages and supports local initiatives and regional programs that stimulate activity and growth in the tourism industry. **Alberta Tourism**

12.5 Heritage Attraction Development - is adding a new dimension to Alberta's tourism industry. Alberta Culture has since 1980, spent in excess of $75 million on capital developments such as the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, the Fort McMurray Oil Sands Interpretive Centre and the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village. The result has been the creation of significant tourist industries in non-traditional areas (e.g. 600,000 visitors came to Drumheller in the Tyrrell Museum's first year), returning tens of millions of dollars each year. The Department is also working with local groups, municipalities, and the private sector in planning and marketing other museums, interpretive centres and historic site attractions across the province. **Alberta Culture**

12.6 Municipal Recreation and Tourism Area Program (MRTA) - This program was initiated in 1981 to assist municipalities or community organizations in developing or upgrading local and regional outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities, such as campsites, picnic areas, boat launches and docks, beaches and other amenities. In 1986, the program was extended and renamed the MRTA program to reflect the potential of these local and regional resources to attract tourists. Approximately 100 sites are expected to receive $10,000,000 (through the Heritage Savings and Trust Fund) under this program over the next few years. **Alberta Recreation and Parks**

12.7 Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas - A system of provincial parks and recreation areas is established throughout the province with one of its major objectives being the promotion of tourism. A major

recapitalization and systems upgrading of the province's key provincial parks and recreation areas is currently under way in support of tourism and the travelling public. Design and construction for this program currently amounts to approximately $6.5 million per year and is done entirely through contracts to the private sector. **Alberta Recreation and Parks**

12.8 Privatization of Park Services and Joint Venture Initiatives - Approximately 350 purchased service agreements for park maintenance activities are entered into on an annual basis. These activities have caused the creation of several small business entities and enhanced the operation of many existing businesses. Beginning with the 1987 camping season, campground operations will be offered as a private sector opportunity in three provincial parks. Wabamum Lake, Crimson Lake and Carson Pegasus Provincial Parks have been selected to allow for the private operation of the campground services within the park. Private sector developments are being integrated into several provincial parks and recreation areas. For example, a golf course and a sailing club facility have been constructed and a major marina is being considered at another site. **Alberta Recreation and Parks**

12.9 Hosting of Major Sport and Recreation Events - This province is gaining a world-wide reputation for successful special events hosting. It has been generally recognized that the staging of such events (1978 Commonwealth Games, the 1983 Universiade Games and the upcoming 1988 Winter Olympics) results in an economic impact to the province in the millions of dollars. Under this program, Recreation and Parks will continue to maintain a flexible hosting policy that will encourage the hosting of major provincial, national and international sport and recreation championships and events in Alberta. **Alberta Recreation and Parks**

12.10 The Community Recreation/Cultural Grant Program is a seven year program that will provide $240,000,000 to Alberta municipalities and community groups for the provision of recreation and cultural services. **Alberta Recreation and Parks**

12.11 The Urban Parks Program has provided $87,000,000 (Heritage Savings and Trust Fund) to five Alberta cities to establish significant areas of open space to ensure urban populations have easy access to natural environments and to develop these areas for sustained and unimpaired use for outdoor recreation and tourism. **Alberta Recreation and Parks**

13.0 TRANSPORTATION

13.1 Alberta Intermodal Services Limited (AIS) was established in 1986 by the Alberta Government. Its purpose is to provide Alberta exporters and importers with low inland transportation costs to and from the West Coast. AIS co-ordinates the movement of containers through the CP Rail system and through private truckers which transports to and from AIS facilities. AIS has marketing offices and storage yards located in Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver. The Alberta Government provided $33 million to AIS for the acquisition of container rail cars, storage yards for containers, highway trailers, and computer equipment for its distribution system. **Alberta Intermodal Services; Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

13.2 Alberta Physical Distribution Program has been established to assist firms, businesses and associations in Alberta that are involved in the movement, handling and storage of goods. The program is intended to create an awareness within Alberta companies of the benefits accruing from improved physical distribution practices and provide assistance to firms that are implementing physical distribution improvements within their organizations. The program features seminars, workshops, and consulting assistance. **Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

13.3 Construction of Roads to Provincial Parks Program - A program of upgrading access roads from the provincial road system to the provincial parks commenced in 1966. Since 1966 the program has been accelerated annually. In 1986/87 a total of $570,000 will be spent to construct roads to provincial parks. Major projects include: Kinbrook Island Park, Big Hill Springs Park, and Gooseberry Lake Provincial Park. The Park Access Road program is a primary benefit to the tourism industry. **Alberta Transportation and Utilities**

13.4 Resource Road Improvement Program - The demand has continued for improvements to roads impacted by resource traffic. High standard roads are constructed to expedite the operation of resource and industrial traffic on a year-round basis. It is anticipated that approximately $50 million will be spent in the 1986/87 construction period. **Alberta Transportation and Utilities**

13.5 Airport Construction: Provincial and Community Airports - This program provides capital for provincial and community airport construction and operation. In 1986, major activities in the provincial airport program included the completion of paving and lighting of the Cooking Lake airport and the start of construction for a paved runway at Fox Creek. The community airport program also saw the completion of paving and lighting at Sundre airport, completion of grading, seeding and lighting at Rimbey and the start of grading for a paved runway at Beaverlodge. A number of grants were made to communities to assist in the construction of modest air terminal buildings for local airports. Expenditures for 1985/86 totalled $7,590,184 for the construction of provincial and community airport facilities.

Many of the airports are located in remote and semi-remote locations and enhance industrial development, local tourism and strengthen the local economies. **Alberta Transportation and Utilities**

14.0 UTILITIES, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

14.1 Through the Individual Line Service (ILS) Program, the Alberta Government is assisting Alberta Government Telephones to extend individual line telephone service throughout the Province. By contributing 75 percent of the costs of converting party lines to individual lines, this new service is being provided at an affordable cost to subscribers. Over the lifetime of the Program, it is anticipated that more than 100,000 multi-party customers will be converted to individual line service. **Alberta Technology, Research and Telecommunications**

14.2 The Extended Flat Rate Calling (EFRC) Program enables telephone customers in Alberta to call customers in other nearby exchanges for a flat monthly rate rather than having to pay a long distance charge for each call. With the newly expanded EFRC Program, EFRC boundaries are being extended from 34 to 40 miles enabling more subscribers to take advantage of this service. This new program is expected to add more than 105 new EFRC routes which should bring the total EFRC routes in Alberta to over 360. **Alberta Technology, Research and Telecommunications**

14.3 The Electric Energy Marketing Agency (EEMA) was established in 1982, with the objective of reducing electric energy cost differentials province-wide. The Agency purchases all the electric energy produced by Trans Alta Utilities, Alberta Power and Edmonton Power at the end of generation and transmission. These electricity costs are pooled and sold back to the utilities at a pooled price. While EEMA does not set final rates, the pooled price is reflected in the electricity rates levied by the utilities.

The Agency administers a shielding program which is incrementally being reduced. This program shields, through the utility companies, the customers of low cost producers of electric energy. This allows for a phased-in adjustment to the provincially pooled price of electricity. **Alberta Transportation and Utilities**

14.4 The Agricultural Processing Industries Grant Program was introduced in April 1986 to provide financial assistance to Alberta municipalities towards the capital cost for the development or expansion of water and sanitary sewage works to accommodate specific agricultural processing industries. The program is administered under the terms of the Alberta Municipal Water Supply and Sewage Treatment Grant Program which was allocated $40 million in 1986/87. **Alberta Transportation and Utilities**

14.5 The Alberta Industrial Land Program was introduced in the early 1980's to assist Alberta municipalities with the provision of affordable land (serviced and unserviced) for industrial purposes. This was part of the province's overall economic decentralization strategy, and facilitated the establishment of a variety of new industries throughout Alberta. As of December 31, 1986, the outstanding investment in the program was $13,198,772 in 263 serviced lots and $9,529,406 in 955 acres of unserviced land. **Alberta Municipal Affairs**

14.6 Innovative Housing Grant Program offers financial assistance to the housing industry, professionals, organizations and individuals to encourage research and development which has the potential to reduce housing costs, improve the quality and performance of dwelling units and subdivisions, or increase the longer term viability and competitiveness of the Alberta housing industry. Grants of up to $25,000 are available for research, design, evaluation, testing and small scale demonstration projects. A limited number of grants of up to $50,000 are available to contribute to the costs of large scale demonstration projects. **Alberta Municipal Affairs**

14.7 Alberta Awards of Excellence in Affordable Housing - A competition is held annually to recognize the achievements of Alberta builders in the construction of high quality, affordable housing. Although the primary benefits of the program are limited to Alberta, the award winners are acknowledged nationally. This can enhance the prestige of Alberta builders and create opportunities in other areas. **Alberta Municipal Affairs**

14.8 The Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation is a Crown Corporation established by the Alberta Government in 1984 to oversee the planning, development and management of a special/hazardous waste system in Alberta. The Corporation owns the site on which a private developer (Chem-Security Ltd.) is constructing a $45 million special waste disposal plant near the Town of Swan Hills. The site will be leased to the plant developer, enabling the Crown to hold the land in perpetuity to provide continuing protection to the environment during and after the lifespan of the plant.

Construction of the plant will be completed in the Spring of 1987 and will have an initial capability to treat and dispose of 20,000 metric tons a year. The capital costs of the project have been jointly shared between the Alberta Government and Chem-Security Ltd. (a 60 percent partner). **Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation**

14.9 The Water Resources Commission was established by the Alberta Government in 1982 to assess and review long term water resource planning in the province with respect to the needs of agriculture, the economy, and the environment. In 1984, the Commission undertook an extensive study of the South Saskatchewan River Basin. This has resulted in the development of a long-range strategy for water use and management in this river basin with respect to irrigation, hydro-electric generation, fish habitats, recreation, municipal and industrial use, and waste disposal. **Water Resources Commission**

14.10 The Occupational Health and Safety Heritage Grant Program funds a wide range of research and educational activities with the objectives of preventing accidents and ill health resulting from employment and promoting the health and well being of Alberta workers through improved working conditions. Basic and applied research has focused on the needs of Alberta's industries. The acquired research skills and knowledge are valuable resources in Alberta's efforts to achieve economic diversification. **Alberta Community and Occupational Health**